

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**F A C T   S H E E T**

**APPROVAL TO RENEW TRANSITIONAL HOUSING  
SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH A COMMUNITY OF FRIENDS  
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009-10 THROUGH 2011-12  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Request approval to renew an existing Transitional Housing Services Agreement with A Community of Friends to provide housing and supportive services to seriously emotionally disturbed young adults.

**REQUEST**

Approve and authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute renewal of the Transitional Housing Services Agreement (Agreement) using an agreement format, substantially similar to Attachment I, with A Community of Friends (ACOF) to provide transitional housing and supportive services. The term of this Agreement will be effective July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2012. This Agreement will be funded by an Intrafund Transfer from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) – Independent Living Program funds for an estimated Total Compensation Amount (TCA) of \$408,000 or \$136,000 annually.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION**

Step-Out, a Transitional Housing Program (THP), is a collaborative effort between ACOF, DCFS, and the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to provide housing and supportive services to seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) young adults, ages 18-21, who are exiting DCFS foster care or Probation and are at risk of becoming homeless. The primary goal is to assist these high-risk young adults in obtaining and remaining in secure housing, increasing their independent living skills and income levels, and achieving greater independence.

The renewal of this Agreement authorizes the continuation of the Step-Out THP with ACOF for a three-year term, and is required to continue the provision of housing and supportive services for SED young adults exiting the foster care system. Board approval is required due to the June 30, 2009, expiration date of the existing Agreement. Additionally, this Agreement will support the goal of reducing homelessness among the emancipated foster youth population.

## **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

ACOF has an existing Agreement with DMH, which will expire on June 30, 2009. Planning, developing, and implementing an open solicitation process at this time would put the youth currently living in the Step-Out THP at immediate and imminent risk of homelessness effective July 1, 2009. There is no known option that could be implemented in a timely manner to avoid such a risk. The costs associated with an open solicitation process would likely exceed the amount of funding for the project, and is therefore not cost-effective. Additionally, given the decrease in available DCFS-Independent Living Program funding for this program, it is unlikely that another agency or entity would be able to identify and attain committed resources to provide and support 20 units of housing while delivering at least the same level of service.

## **DMH CONTACT:**

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## **Approved by:**

DMH Program – Terri Boykins  
DMH Contracts – Carolyn Kennard  
Chief Executive Officer – James Sokalski  
County Counsel – Stephanie Anaya-Sernett